

REMARKS

The cross-references to the parent and Japanese priority applications have been placed in better form and an appropriate section heading has been added on the first page of the specification.

The revisions are intended to improve clarity and require no substantial work or consideration by the Office.

Accordingly, it is respectfully requested that this Amendment be entered.

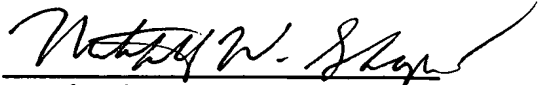
The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge to Deposit Account No. 50-1165 any fees under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16 and 1.17 that may be required by this paper and to credit any overpayment to that Account. If any extension of time is required in connection with the filing of this paper and has not been requested separately, such extension is hereby requested.

Respectfully submitted,

MWS:lmb

Miles & Stockbridge P.C.
1751 Pinnacle Drive
Suite 500
McLean, Virginia 22102
(703) 903-9000

January 20, 2004

By: 
Mitchell W. Shapiro
Reg. No. 31,568